

HD
1526
07A3
1952

POST-SEASON FARM LABOR REPORT 1952



STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION.
OREGON, STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.
" Affiliated With
UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
Salem, Oregon

011838

U. S. DEPT. OF LABOR
AG 25 1953

NUMBER OF HIRED SEASONAL WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

BY LOCAL OFFICE & TYPE OF WORKER - 1952

LOCAL OFFICE AND TYPE OF WORKER	MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
<u>STATE TOTAL</u>	10,341	15,993	44,380	54,280	36,920	36,745	44,475	50,632	32,337	25,847	15,724	16,773
Local	6,471	10,643	34,085	41,195	23,670	23,695	30,640	36,416	24,121	18,566	9,590	11,179
Intrastate Migratory	975	1,225	5,565	6,140	5,520	5,280	4,495	5,727	2,964	2,668	1,989	2,490
Interstate Migratory	2,895	4,125	4,520	6,585	7,370	7,470	9,340	7,914	4,476	3,819	3,790	3,076
Foreign			210	360	360	300	--	575	776	794	355	28
<u>ALBANY</u>	975	1,725	3,100	4,200	1,500	5,500	5,700	7,200	3,650	1,850	1,025	1,075
Local	975	1,725	2,550	3,300	1,250	4,450	4,200	5,300	3,450	1,850	1,025	1,075
Intrastate Migratory			450	750	50	300	400	500	150			
Interstate Migratory			100	150	200	750	1,100	1,400	50			
<u>BEND</u>									400	1,500	2,500	
Local									200	1,000	1,200	
Intrastate Migratory									150	300	1,000	
Interstate Migratory									50	200	300	
<u>CORVALLIS</u>	85	110	135	180	510	385	635	865	505	285	150	75
Local	85	110	135	180	510	385	635	865	505	285	150	75
<u>EUGENE</u>	131	138	190	655	895	4,100	4,710	5,430	1,395	835	620	839
Local	131	138	190	500	700	2,700	3,560	4,280	1,225	765	575	809
Intrastate Migratory					40	400	450	450	70	50		
Interstate Migratory				155	155	1,000	700	700	100	20	45	30

from the ranks of its local citizens. During the June peak of 1952, the distribution of the hired seasonal labor force was:

Local or within daily commuting distance	- 75.9%
Intrastate Migrants	- 11.3%
Interstate Migrants	- 12.1%
Mexican Nationals	- 1.7%

Chart No. 2 shows the distribution of the labor force throughout the agricultural season.

The farm employers of the State realize the importance of the full utilization of local workers. They have cooperated very well by improving sanitary and working conditions thus making the jobs more attractive to local workers. A substantial increase in daily transportation furnished by the farmers was also a very important item in getting out the local workers. This is borne out by the fact that in 55 cities or towns throughout the State, Day-haul Programs were organized. In these programs, the farmers furnish workers daily transportation to and from the harvest fields from the local offices and other designated pick up points. The local offices serving these areas reported that on a normal day, 18,197 persons availed themselves of this transportation and at the peak of the harvest this figure reached a high of 24,099 workers daily. Had this transportation not been furnished, a big proportion of these needed workers would not have been available.

In nearly all areas of the State, the demand for workers cannot be met by the local supply and must be augmented by intrastate or interstate migrants. During 1952, the State Agency cooperated with various farmers and farm organizations and direct recruitment was

carried on through the Clearance Program for additional interstate migrants. Very good cooperation was had with the applicant holding states and in most instances, the program worked well early in the season. Surveys in four areas of the State revealed that it was doubtful that the local supply augmented with migrant workers would be sufficient to meet the needs. This resulted in the request from the farmers in these areas to import Mexican Nationals to make up the deficit. The jobs offered in these areas were not readily adaptable to the employment of women and youths, therefore, limiting the recruitment possibilities. As a result of these requests, 379 Mexican Nationals were employed in the green peas harvest in Umatilla County during June and July. Of this number 319 were later transferred to Jackson County and employed in the pear harvest during the latter part of August, September, and early October. This number was augmented by 134 direct from the reception center. In early September, 201 Mexican Nationals were brought into Hood River County and 159 who had been previously employed in Medford were also transferred to Hood River County where they assisted in completion of the pear and apple harvest. During the latter part of August and early September, 141 Nationals were transferred from the State of Washington to Josephine County to work on the mechanical hop picking machines. The use of these workers proved very satisfactory and filled a very definite gap in the labor supply. With the exception of a small group retained in Jackson County for winter pruning work, these Mexican Nationals were repatriated to their homes by November 1.

The local offices also received very fine cooperation from the agricultural employers. A recent survey showed that 9,476 different